

**ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

An apparatus and method for recording segment execution times in a processing system are provided. The method includes the steps of recording a timestamp corresponding to the beginning of a segment to be executed, wherein the recording step is  
5 conducted through a firmware operation. The method further includes the step of updating the timestamp with an elapsed segment execution time, wherein the updating step is conducted through a plurality of hardware based operations that are executed without firmware interaction.

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